

B.A.R.G. NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. Inc. #6953T

ABN 44 247 200 143

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 10 **OCTOBER 2004**

PRESIDENT: David Tilson VK3UR SECRETARY: John Kennedy VK3AIG TREASURER: Bob Terrill VK3BNC
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NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2004
At 7.30 pm

REMINDER *The end of OCTOBER is the last time to pay your fees or your News Letter will cease and you risk "loss of membership"*

EDITORS COMMENT

BPL (BROAD BAND ON POWER LINES)

Members will be aware of the submission to the ACA by power companies to use their power distribution grid for data transmission. You will be aware of the stand that the WIA is taking against the proposal and should read the ARRL article on same.

This is a great threat to Amateur Radio and WICEN as it appears that there would be great interference in the HF band possibly from 3 MHz through to 80 MHz making it almost a "wipe out" to the long distance radio communications. There is enough problems with power lines now, especially for mobile operations.

Remember cyclone Tracy where I believe that for 6 hours the only communication out of Darwin was by Amateur HF. If this plan goes ahead, how would "government" justify their actions for another Tracy..

I believe that a government "white paper" is to be released by the ACA in November and that we have to be prepared to taken political action if the need arises. This may mean amateurs contacting member of both houses of federal parliament and obtaining support for WICEN from the various emergency services to keep our services available

DATES

Club meetings the last Friday each month starting at 7.30 pm

COMMITTEE please note that meetings (3rd Wednesday in the month) will also start at 7.30.

Construction Nights. Construction nights are held on the second Monday each month at 7.30 .

WICEN Net : Tuesday nights at 9.00 pm on 3.60 MHz + QRM etc. (Some times below 3.60) and after the net closes, a short check in on 40M at an agreed freq.

Eureka Special Event 27 Nov to 5 Dec 2004
Ballarat Hamvention Sunday 7 Nov 2004 (Next Month)
Friday 29 October General Meeting 8.00 pm then visit to Ballarat Observatory at 9.15
 So keep General Business to a minimum!!
Friday 19 November 6.30 pm Dining Night - Hamvention Ladies "Thank You" night
Friday 26 November 8.00 General Meeting Guest Speaker Val D'angri Topic "Eureka"
 (Preparation for VI.3BML)
November 27 to 5 December Eureka Special Event Station (Refer to roster)

MISSING!

"Radio Theory Handbook for Amateur Operators" Fred Swainston 3rd Edition. A few years ago the Club purchased 12 copies for the Education Classes. Most are missing. If you borrowed one and have not returned same, please do so now. If you know where or who has copies please suggest that they be returned.

From the President's Shack:

We have an exciting couple of months coming up with the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group. These include a visit to the Ballarat Observatory, the forthcoming Hamvention and the Eureka 150 celebrations. I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible having fun and participating in these events.

Ian, **VK3IDL**, and yours truly will be representing the Club at the WIA Clubs Conference on Saturday, 23rd October, in Melbourne. Discussions will focus around the new National WIA and how clubs will interact as well as discussion about the proposed entry level licence.

Yours in amateur radio,

David Tilson, VK3UR
BARG President

MINUTES OF CLUB MEETING

Minutes of General Meeting 24 September 2004.

Meeting opened by President David vk3ur at 1945 hrs.

Apologies Bob vk4bnc John vk3cfh Stewart vk3ash Harry vk3kgf Kathy vk3hrz
 Ian vk3cis

David vk3ur welcomed Gwen vk3dyl. { David's Mum }

Minutes of August meeting as circulated, Moved vk3nbv/bvi Carried.
Business arising from minutes. {1} Outstanding appointment of vacant positions to follow. {2} Michael Lomas to investigate lighting and electrical issues Sec to follow up.
{3} Gordon vk3fgc re roofing issues. Rear re-roofed and spouting replaced. No cost.
{4} Ernie vk3det possibility of daytime construction projects, Still in progress.
Ian vk3idl to draw up roster vi3bml Progressing well.
[5] Discussion with W.I.A. re National body still in progress.

Financial statement. As tabled and accounts passed Moved vk3fgc/cmc. Carried.

Correspondence. In City of Ballarat. N/H Cable. T.T.S. Systems. A.C.A. Licence.
Out 12 Letters Hamvention Traders. Mr L. Spain R.A.V.
Moved that Correspondence be accepted vk3mna/bvi. Carried.

Reports Committee. Appointments. Amenities Coordinator Doug vk3vba.
Awards Officer Doug vk3vba outlined to meeting the awards
still current and out of date.

Publicity Officer. Doug vk3vba.
Contests Coordinator Ernie vk3det.
Librarian Craig vk3cmc.

Ian vk3idl suggested to members that Ernie vk3det would be ideal for Awards Officer, Ernie accepted.
Committee to ratify the positions Contests, Awards. And Librarian
Club Calender now complete thanks to Ian vk3idl and Debbie.
Strategies. Education, Recruitment, Licences Etc still in discussion.
A.R.D.F. Foxhunt in conjunction Those interested. Vk3idl, vk3nbv, vk3mna, vk3det,
Vk3axh, vk3vba, vk3aig, vk3cmc, vk3ur, vk3fgc.
Club Activities, Ballarat Observatory Oct 29 2004,
Large Project [Future] Balloon Launch.
Christmas BBQ Dec 15 2004.

Report General Amenities, Doug vk3vba reported on mowing and cleaning, Mowing Roster vk3mna.
Vk3idl vk3axh, vk3cmc, vk3det, vk3fgc, vk3nbv, vk3vba.
Club Nets, Clem vk3bvi reported 14 on net and appreciates David vk3ur for on air info.
Contests Ernie reported Oceania DX 2/3 Oct. CW ON 9/10 Oct. CQ WW 30/31 Oct
JOTA 16/17 Oct. Eureka 27nov/5 Dec vi3bml

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Eureka Ian vk3idl QSL card amendments ok Publicity Doug ok.
Hamvention, Ian vk3axh Homebrew segment Awards and levels to be worked out.
Library, Craig vk3cmc Categorising to commence ie Current Books, Electronics. Older Texts. Digital,
Magazines, Manuals, Other Topics, A suitable way of logging and loaning,
Education Charlie vk3dcs, Exams to be held on Oct 16 2004.
Technical Ian vk3axh, Plan to do tests on vk3rwa from home and on site,
Booked 40 trestles for Hamvention, Confirmed date Nov7 2004
Construction night Two tone oscillator. PCBs required.

Construction Group, A number of completed computer/ radio interfaces have completed and tested
, Additional kits still available. Cost \$18.00 per set.

Next Project as discussed by Ian vk3axh is the two tone oscillator as featured in last .A.R.

Dining Night, Successful night at Ballarat Leagues Club.

Next Outing Queens head Hotel 146 Humffray St North 15 Oct 2004

General Business Craig reported on Keypads complete . Moved vk3cmc/heg That Club buy 12 Keypads at \$10.00 and sell to members, Carried.

David vk3ur reported on search of A.C.A. database to locate Amateurs in area.

John vk3 aig requested that a Maryborough member is looking for an 813 valve socket.

Steve asked if members had information on a 6m ant as in the recent 2m version.

Members felt a trail and see version.

Meeting closed at 2115 and members broke for a cuppa and sandwich prior to Guest Speaker Gwen.

Guest Speaker Gwen spoke on her recent trips with other Yls on Dx expeditions and her forthcoming trip to South Korea. The hassles of plane trips and the amount of weight that can be carried. Setting up of antennas .breakdowns and the great friendships. 15m and 20 m the most used frequencies.

Craig vk3cmc thanked Gwen on members behalf for a very interesting talk and wished her well with the next S.K. trip

Meeting Closed

FOR INFORMATION TO THOSE MILITARY PERSONAL FROM AMERICA EXPERIENCE

Apparently these are straight from the 'front' in Iraq.....

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"Aim towards the Enemy." -- Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher.

"When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend." -- U.S. Army

"Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground." -- U.S.A.F. Ammo Troop.

"If the enemy is in range, so are you." -- Infantry Journal.

"A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit." -- Army's magazine of preventive maintenance.

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed." -- U.S. Air Force Manual.

"Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo." -- Infantry Journal.

"Tracers work both ways." -- U.S. Army Ordnance.

"Five-second fuses only last three seconds." -- Infantry Journal.

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid." -- Col. David Hackworth.

"If your attack is going too well, you're probably walking into an ambush." -- Infantry Journal.

"No combat-ready unit has ever passed inspection." -- Joe Gay.

"Any ship can be a minesweeper... once." -- Anon.

"Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do." -- Unknown Army Recruit.

"Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you." -- Your Buddies.

"If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up with him." --U.S. Ammo Troop.

Thanks Craig!

NEWS IN BRIEF

CONSTRUCTION GROUP

October's Construction Night was another success where 7 of our members learnt how to make Printed Circuit Boards (PCB's) under the careful direction of Ian, **VK3AXH**. The process comprised learning how to make the PCB image, exposing coated PCB with an ultra violet light box, developing the resist and then etching copper off the boards in an acid bath. Safety was also covered due to the use of chemicals. The PCB's that were etched will enable members to make a 2 tone audio test generator that was recently described in Amateur Radio magazine.



Ian, **VK3AXH**, explaining the process of making PCB's

October General Meeting:

We had a great roll-up by members and a fascinating presentation by Gwen, **VK3DYL**, on YL DXpeditions at our September General Meeting.

At our October General Meeting to be held on Friday, the 29th of October, there will be lots to talk about in preparation for this year's Hamvention. If time permits we will have a brief presentation on a proposed club project, called Project High Altitude. At 9:15PM we will be heading off to the Ballarat Observatory for a presentation on astronomy and a look through the telescopes that Ian, **VK3IDL**, has arranged. This will be a busy night, so we will be starting at 7:30PM sharp...

Eureka 150 Celebrations:

Ian has been busy developing the operating roster for VI3BML. There are still some vacant slots available and the latest version can be found on the BARG web site, www.barg.org.au.

Plans are well underway for BARG's involvement in the Eureka 150 celebrations. The Australian Communications Authority (ACA) has issued the callsign **VI3BML** to the club for use during late November and December. Ian, **VK3IDL**, is preparing a roster, with Ernie, **VK3DET**, that will be available at the October General Meeting and regularly distributed via e-mail and the club's web site. To coincide with the Eureka celebrations we will operate the special event station from November 27th until the 5th of December. The Committee would really like to see members operating around the clock from the clubrooms and using club equipment on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of December and we will be providing food and drink at the clubrooms during this period. If you would like to operate VI3BML, but can't make it to a club meeting, contact Ian on 5331-1480 (AH).

Quotable Quote

One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.

Progress might have been all right once, but it's gone on too long.

6 m Portable Aerial:

Ernie **VK3DET** has been working on "portable/roll up" aerials for 6 m operation and has suggested that it might be a project for the construction nights.

Club Rooms:

Thanks to some of our members, including Ernie, **VK3DET**, Charlie, **VK3DCS**, Steve, **VK3MNA** and Doug, **VK3VBA** for their efforts in mowing the grass and making sure the club rooms are clean in recent times. Your efforts are certainly appreciated. At this time of year the grass needs mowing at least every 3 weeks so at the October General Meeting Gordon, **VK3FGC**, will be looking for volunteers to assist with the mowing roster.

Encoder DTMF:

The DTMF encoders ordered by members have arrived and are in the hands of Ian **VK3AXH**. If you have ordered one please collect from Ian and pay the Treasurer \$12.00 which covers the cost and your part of the freight.

Contests:

Ernie, **VK3DET**, our Contests Co-ordinator is still looking for operators to assist with the CQ World Wide SSB contest to be held at the club rooms on the weekend of 30 / 31 October. Contact Ernie as soon as possible if you'd like to be involved.

2004 Hamvention:

Ian, **VK3AXH**, reports that preparations for the 2004 Hamvention are progressing well. The date and venue have been confirmed for Sunday, 7th November at the Ballarat Showgrounds Wool Pavilion. Entry fee has been set at \$6 per person and 6' trestles are available for \$15 (including 1 admission). The Hamvention coincides with Trash and Treasure and the annual Ballarat Springfest (held around Lake Wendouree) which allows many partners and families to browse around the Springfest stalls while the Hamvention attendees buy up all the bargains. Invitations have been sent to equipment suppliers and a leaflet appeared in the October issue of Amateur Radio magazine. The Ballarat Hamvention is a major event on the BARG calendar and takes a lot of assistance for it to be successful. We will be looking for assistance at the next October General Meeting.

Examinations:

Last Saturday 16 Oct three candidates sat exams at the Club rooms so we wish them luck and hope their confidence is justified

Next Proposed Date: Saturday 26 February 2005. Note the date now and start studying.

Library:

Craig **VK3CMC** has put suggestions to the committee for upgrading the library and has started work already. Craig may be looking for some help in the future with cataloguing. He has suggested a computer system and in the longer term, computer recording of loans.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

Middle age is when you begin to wonder who put the quicksand into the hourglass of time.

HOME BREW COMPETITION

Conditions of Entry for the Home Brew Competition, to be run in conjunction with the Ballarat Hamvention have now been set and are included in this newsletter. The Committee last night identified a judging panel, who will remain anonymous until after the event, so that they cannot be corrupted before the event, but can be lynched afterwards.

IRLP Codes for VK3RWA:

Stephen, **VK3HEG**, administrator of our IRLP system, on VK3RWA, has added some new commands that allows users to interrogate the system. These include the ability to find out what's on at BARG for the next month as well as details of the forthcoming General Meeting. The new commands are highlighted in the list below. To use the commands, key up your 2m transmitter, identify yourself, then enter the desired DTMF command

DTMF Code:	Announcement / Function:
#0	check node status
#1	Announce what the menu options are (Does not list all #2x options)
#73 and 73	End any connected link
#2	Weather menu (List's what the #2x options are)
#20	Weather for Ballarat
#21	Weather for Bendigo
#22	Weather for Stawell
#23	Weather for Ararat
#24	Weather for Hamilton
#25	Weather for Maryborough
#26	Weather for Horsham
#27	Weather for Castlemaine
#3	Say the time
#4	Call a random node
#5	Watch a busy node and try to connect when it's free
#10	Announce BARG General Meeting information
#11	Announce BARG HF Net information
#12	Announce BARG Hamvention information
#13	Announce BARG Monthly information

CLUB INFORMATION

REPEATERS

VK3RBA	(Voice)	146.750	Mt Buninyong
VK3RWA	(Voice)	147.100	Mt Ben Nevis
VK3RPC	(Packet)	144.750	Mt Warrenheip
VK3RBU	(Voice)	438.475	

BEACON

VK3RMB	438.475	Mt Buninyong
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IRLP Node 6310 using VK3RWA

CLUB e-mail vk3bml@barg.org.au.

CLUB NET VK3BML 3.610+/- QRM Thursday Nights at 8 pm E.S.T (Summer & Winter)

WIA Broadcast and Club Call Back. Sunday's 11.30 via VK3RWA (IRLP Node 6310)

NEWS ITEMS Send to Gordon VK3FGC (e-mail the club) mail to Box 1261 Mail Centre BALLARAT 3354

Weekly BARG HF Net: Thursday's 8:00pm on 3.610MHz +/- QRM

THE 2004 BALLARAT HAMVENTION HOME BREW COMPETITION

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

This is an honesty system and entrants use these criteria. There will be 3 sections of competition, comprising: Novice, Experienced, and Expert. It is permissible for an entrant to enter above, but not below, their section.

NOVICE:

1. Is a person who is NOT, or was NOT, professionally involved in the design or building of equipment; AND
2. Has no amateur licence, or has held an amateur licence for less than two years; AND
3. Has built less than 5 projects (Kits or own design).

EXPERIENCED:

1. Is a person who is NOT, or was NOT, professionally involved in the design or building of equipment; AND
2. Has held an amateur licence for more than two years and less than 10 years; OR
3. Has built more than 5 simple projects. (Kits or own design)

EXPERT:

1. Is a person who is, or was, professionally involved in the design or building of equipment; OR
2. Has held a amateur licence for 10 years or more; OR
3. Anyone who doesn't fit any of the above.

REGISTRATION:

1. There is no cost to enter the Home Brew Competition and you may enter as many entries as you wish.
2. All entries must be accompanied by a separate Entry Form.
3. All entries, and Entry Forms, must be presented to the Home Brew Competition Co-ordinator by 09:30 on Sunday, 7th November, 2004. Entries received after this time, will be displayed but ineligible for the competition.
4. All entries must be collected between 12:30PM – 1:00PM on the day of the Hamvention.

JUDGING AND JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Workmanship which covers e.g. mechanical construction, soldering, layout of the sections such as good practice for the frequencies used, use of suitable materials, controls with knobs and labels, serviceability, safety and appearance.
2. Originality will be considered as will complexity of the project and the documentation.
3. Judging will occur on the morning of the Hamvention, with the prize winners being announced at 12:00PM. The judges decision will be final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.
4. Pictures of entries and a summary of the judges remarks may be published on the BARG Web Site (www.barg.org.au) and BARG Newsletter after the Hamvention.

PRIZES:

1. A certificate and a \$50 cash prize will be made available to the winner of each section.

ENTRY FORM:

1. All entries must be accompanied with the following documentation.

2004 BALLARAT HAMVENTION HOME BREW COMPETITION:

Name:

Callsign:

Section: Novice Experienced Expert

Project Title:

Brief Description:

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Estimated Construction Time:

Why Did You Build It?:

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Does The Project Work? Yes / No